

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention of the claims 1-11 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 recited "A method of...comprising the steps of: providing a unique medium identifier..., and providing a link..." which are purely mental steps and did not tie with an apparatus that accomplishes the method steps; therefore, the method is not a patent eligible process under 35 USC § 101 and as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Other dependent claims, which are not specifically cited above are also rejected because of the deficiencies of their respective parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2d paragraph

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2455

5. Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the content" in line 2 and claim 10 recites the limitation "the content" in line 4. There are insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiloyan et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,165,109) in view of Chatani (U.S. Patent No. 7,228,342).

Art Unit: 2455

9. As to claim 1, Chiloyan et al teach a method of rendering a removable storage medium virtually re-writable, on which storage medium information is stored read-only (figure 1, column 3 lines 40-44, and column 6 line 47 to column 7 line 20), the method comprising the steps of: providing a unique medium identifier (peripheral device identifies itself and transfer a network address) for the removable read-only storage medium; and providing a link (pointer/URI) to a networked storage area of a mass storage device, wherein access to the storage area is granted by means of said medium identifier (URI or other address is indicating a memory location of a remote computer) (figure 1, column 3 line 45 to column 4 line 9, column 7 lines 21-53, column 8 line 25-61, and column 17 lines 16-29).

However, Chiloyan et al do not explicitly teach that providing a unique medium identifier for the removable read-only storage medium.

Chatani teaches a method of rendering a removable storage medium virtually re-writable, on which storage medium information is stored read-only (figures 1-2, see abstract, and column 3 lines 4-31) comprising: providing a unique medium identifier for the removable read-only storage medium (providing USER ID and DISC ID) (figures 1-2, and column 3 line 32 to column 4 line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Chiloyan et al by incorporating the teaching of Chatani as stated above for rendering a removable storage medium virtually re-writable because it would have offered an incentive to a user of a software/electronic product when the user shares with others.

10. As to claims 2-3, Chiloyan et al teach that the storage medium is an optical disc; and the optical disc is chosen from a CD, DVD, SFFO disc, Blu-Ray disc (column 6 lines 21-46, column 7 lines 11-20, and column 8 lines 25-61).

11. As to claims 4-5, Chiloyan et al teach that the link is a wireless access link to a network; and the wireless access link only is operative within a restricted area (work within LAN) (figures 1 and 9, column 7 lines 34-54, and column 16 lines 14-30).

12. As to claims 6-7, Chiloyan et al teach that the storage medium is a ticket (vendor ID) having stored thereon information concerning a physical site (additional source) the ticket providing access to; and the physical site is a theme park, museum or event location (service station) (figures 1 and 9, column 3 line 45 to column 4 line 22, and column 15 line 52 to column 16 line 30).

Art Unit: 2455

13. As to claim 8, Chiloyan et al teach that the modifying step comprising virtually changing, adding or deleting content to content stored on the removable storage medium (column 8 lines 25-61).

14. As to claims 9-10, Chiloyan et al do not teach that the medium identifier is a user id and share the modified/updated content stored in the storage area.

Chatani teaches that the medium identifier is a user id provided by a user when accessing the storage medium figure 5, and column 4 line 58 to column 5 line 37); and a group of users having different individual user ids share the same network storage area, such that when one user of the group of users modifies the content in the network storage area, all remaining users will experience the same changes when using identical copies of the read-only storage medium (figure 6, and column 6 line 1 to column 7 line 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Chiloyan et al by incorporating the teaching of Chatani as stated above for rendering a removable storage medium virtually re-writable because it would have offered an incentive to a user of a software/electronic product when the user shares with others.

Art Unit: 2455

15. As to claim 11, Chatani teaches that the medium identifier is a unique identification code in the Burst Cutting Area (BCA) of the optical disc (figure 2 reference numbers 220 and 230, and column 3 line 53 to column 4 line 7).

16. As to claims 12-15, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-5 above, since claims 12-15 are merely an apparatus for the method of operations defined in the method claims 1-5.

17. As to claim 16, it is also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claim 1 above, since claim 16 is merely a program product for the method of operations defined in the method claim 1.

Additional References

18. The examiner as of general interest cites the following references.

- a. Ahonen, U.S. Patent No. 7,260,618.
- b. Bick et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,725,258.

Contact Information

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Bharat Barot** whose Telephone Number is **(571) 272-3979**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Most facsimile-transmitted patent application related correspondence is required to be sent to the Central FAX Number **(571) 273-8300**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Saleh Najjar**, can be reached at **(571) 272-4006**.

/Bharat N Barot/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455

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